

#81 Protections for a Living Child

Recommend: Strongly Oppose

Designated Representatives:

Comments:

Initiative #81 is an initiative that the LWV would strongly oppose, as it defines a 'living human child' as 'any living human being from the moment human life biologically begins at conception through every stage of biological development...'

The League supports the constitutional right of privacy of an individual to make reproductive choices. Public policy must affirm this constitutional right of privacy without undue government restrictions. The League also believes that every US resident should have access to a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost, including abortion.

The Colorado LWV's position is exemplified in the CO Reproductive Health Equity Act, signed into law in 2022, which declares that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.

This initiative also states that any facility or dispensary that participates in the termination of a fetus or abortion would lose their license and permits, as well as have any medical licenses revoked, and be dealt with as participants in a homicide.

Because the LWVUS and LWVCO advocate for a pregnant person's right to choose regarding reproductive rights, which include the right to an abortion, we strongly oppose this initiative's penalties as stated above.

Position:

Reproductive Health: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

LWVCO Positions for Action, 2022-2023, p.12

See <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/index.html> for documentation.

Thalia Oster

November 18, 2023